



### ***A Weekly Roundup of the Hot Mess That Is the Republican Primary for Governor***

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**MADISON, Wis.** — Welcome to “Knives Out”— Rebecca Kleefisch’s favorite phrase and a weekly roundup of the infighting between the radical Republicans running for Wisconsin governor.

The GOP is locked in a heated and brutal primary for governor, where Rebecca Kleefisch, Kevin Nicholson, Tim Ramthun, and Tim Michels are each trying to prove they are the most divisive candidate in the race. What’s going on in the Republican Party is so outrageous, it’s hard to keep track of all of their blunders — so here is a roundup:

#### **Who Said It?**

Can you guess who said the following?

*“We live in Delafield; I love where we live. It is a big part of who I am. And I can't imagine having lived our life any other way or seeing kids, you know, growing up elsewhere. And does that matter if you're gonna run for Governor of the state of Wisconsin? Yes, yes, it does, frankly, because you should be in the fight with people here and understanding the challenges that they're facing.”*

Scroll to the end of this newsletter for the answer.

#### **Tim Michels: Part Time Wisconsinite**

Tim Michels sent out a new mailer... we fixed it for him.

As a reminder, last week Michels had to go on defense about being a [part-time Wisconsinite](#). Apparently, he spent more than \$30 million on properties in New York and Connecticut between 2015 and 2020, and “still owns the Manhattan penthouse he bought in 2015 for \$8.7 million.”

His best [explanation](#) was that his kids root for Wisconsin sports teams.

### Kleefisch’s Mother’s Day Message

Rebecca Kleefisch posted [this](#) video ahead of Mother’s Day.

It’s an obvious stretch to suggest that Tony Evers wants to “cancel motherhood” – whatever that means. Maybe it’s worth reminding Rebecca Kleefisch that she supported [lawsuits](#) against the Affordable Care Act, which guaranteed maternal care. She’s also at the extreme fringes of [banning women’s access to reproductive health care](#).

Contrast that with Gov. Evers, who supports expanding health care access for Wisconsinites and trusts women to make their own health care decisions.

### Tommy Thompson: Stop Trying To Stay Relevant

This week, Tommy Thompson provided [unsolicited advice](#) to the Republicans running for governor. In an op-ed he asked that candidates, “focus on solutions, not personal attacks.”

But personal attacks and infighting are not going anywhere. As this newsletter proves week in and week out, it’s only ramping up as each candidate fights to prove they are the most radical and extreme.

Just this morning, Rebecca Kleefisch [wrote](#) that “twelve years after my first run-in with the Madison snakes and weasels, they are trying to stop me again.” Would Tommy Thompson himself be included among the “snakes and weasels”, given that he

[considered](#)

running against her?

It's also pretty rich for Thompson to tell people to play nice, when he went to Mar-a-Lago seeking [Donald Trump's endorsement](#) – someone who has made personal attacks and bullying the cornerstone of his political career.

### **Robin Vos Goes to the Extreme Fringes of the GOP, Says He Would Consider Banning Emergency Contraceptives**

Republicans in Wisconsin continue to step up their attacks on reproductive health care. This week, Speaker Robin Vos [said he would consider supporting a ban on emergency contraception](#), threatening access to pharmaceuticals like Plan B.

Do the GOP candidates for governor share all of Vos' views?

### **“Who Said It” Answer Revealed**

Kevin Nicholson on [WSAU Feedback](#) about Michels' part-time Wisconsin residency. It's never good to find yourself agreeing with Kevin Nicholson, but living in Wisconsin does seem like a prerequisite to running for governor.